

## Variational optimization in Image Understanding (II)

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- Implementation of TV regularization models
  - ROF model (1992)
  - Linearization for EL equation (1996)
  - Duality-based algorithm (2004) → primal-dual algorithm
  - TV/L1 model
  - Splitting techniques → ADMM
- Weighted least squares (WLS, 2008)
- L0 smoothing (2011)
- Experimental result
- Discussion

- Since ADMM introduces some auxiliary variables and requires the solution of some linear systems, the iterative procedure can be complicated.
- Chambolle and Pock considered solving the minimax problem [ref A]:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \min_{x \in X} \phi(Kx) + \phi(x) & \longrightarrow & \min_{x \in X} \max_{z \in Z} \phi(x) + \langle Kx, z \rangle - \psi(z). \\ \text{Primal} & & \text{Primal-dual} \end{array}$$

- They solve the problem by a first-order primal-dual algorithm as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} &= \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \phi(\mathbf{x}) + \langle K\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \rangle + \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2, \\ \widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(k+1)} &= \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} + \theta(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}), & \leftarrow \text{approximate extragradient step [C]} \\ \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} &= \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{z} \in Z} \langle K\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(k+1)}, \mathbf{z} \rangle - \psi(\mathbf{z}) - \frac{1}{2t} \|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{z}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \end{cases}$$

## Advantages

- converges fast

(See next slide)

- matrix inversion-free. Very useful when the matrix is huge and difficult to invert

- A. Chambolle and T. Pock. A first-order primal-dual algorithm for convex problems with applications to imaging. *Journal of Mathematical Imaging and Vision*, 40(1):120–145, 2011.
- B. M. Zhu, and T. F. Chan, An Efficient Primal-Dual Hybrid Gradient Algorithm for Total Variation Image Restoration, UCLA CAM Report [08-34], May 2008. (ref A minus extragradient step)
- C. G.M. Korpelevich, "The extragradient method for finding saddle points and other problems." *Ekonomika i Matematicheskie Metody* **12** (1976): 747-756.

## TV-L1 model

- TV-L1 formulation

$$\min_u \left\{ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| d\Omega + \lambda \int_{\Omega} |f - u| d\Omega \right\}$$

- Implementation 1): Euler-Lagrange equation

$$-\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) + \lambda \frac{(u - f)}{|u - f|} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\nabla u^{n+1}}{|\nabla u^n|_{\varepsilon}} \right) + \lambda \frac{(u^{n+1} - f)}{|u^n - f|_{\delta}} = 0$$

## TV-L1 model

- Aujol (06) Aujol, J.-F., G. G. C. T. and S. Osher, "Structure-texture image decomposition-modeling, algorithms, and parameter Selection," 2006

$$\min_u \left\{ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| d\Omega + \lambda \int_{\Omega} |u - f| d\Omega \right\} \quad \leftarrow \text{not strictly convex}$$

- Implementation 2): Strictly convex model

$$\min_{u,v} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| d\Omega + \frac{1}{2\theta} \int_{\Omega} (u - v)^2 d\Omega + \lambda \int_{\Omega} |v - f| d\Omega \right\}$$

– For fixed  $v$ ,  $\min_u \left\{ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| d\Omega + \frac{1}{2\theta} \int_{\Omega} (u - v)^2 d\Omega \right\} \rightarrow$  Chambolle method,,,

– For fixed  $u$ ,  $\min_v \left\{ \frac{1}{2\theta} \int_{\Omega} (u - v)^2 d\Omega + \lambda \int_{\Omega} |v - f| d\Omega \right\}$

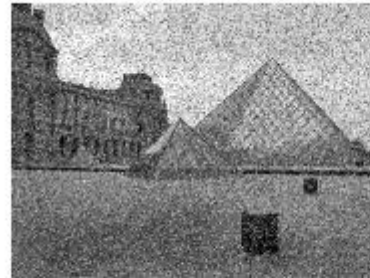
$$\hookrightarrow v = \begin{cases} u - \lambda\theta & \text{if } u - f > \lambda\theta \\ u + \lambda\theta & \text{if } u - f < -\lambda\theta \\ f & \text{if } |u - f| \leq \lambda\theta \end{cases}$$

## TV-L1 model

- Test results by recent algorithms



(a) Clean image



(b) Noisy image



(c) ROF

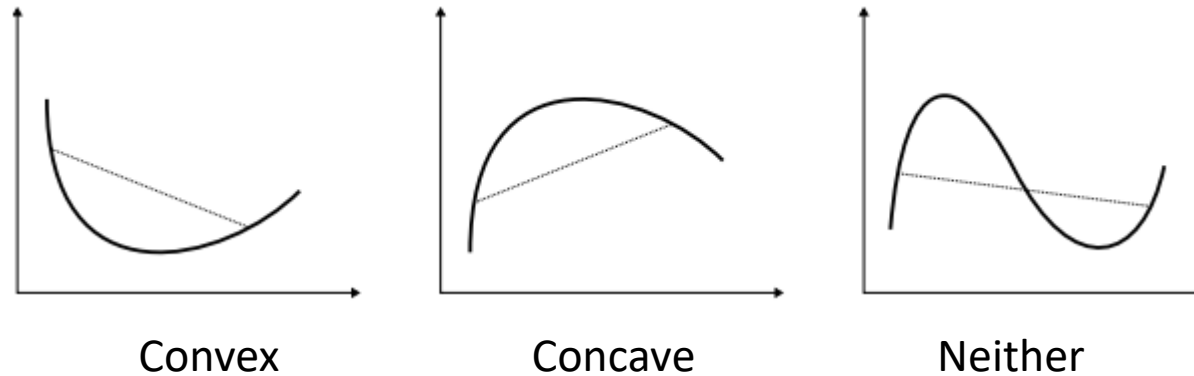
(d) TV- $L^1$ 

	$\lambda = 1.5$	
	$\varepsilon = 10^{-4}$	$\varepsilon = 10^{-5}$
PD	187 (15.81s)	421 (36.02s)
ADMM	385 (33.26s)	916 (79.98s)
EGRAD	2462 (371.13s)	8736 (1360.00s)
NEST	2406 (213.41s)	15538 (1386.95s)

Primal-dual performs best, ADMM reasonable well

# TV-L1 model

- Convex function



- It is a well-known fact that if the second derivative  $f''(x)$  is  $\geq 0$  for all  $x$  in an interval  $I$ , then  $f$  is **convex** on  $I$ . (Note that it is sufficient condition.)

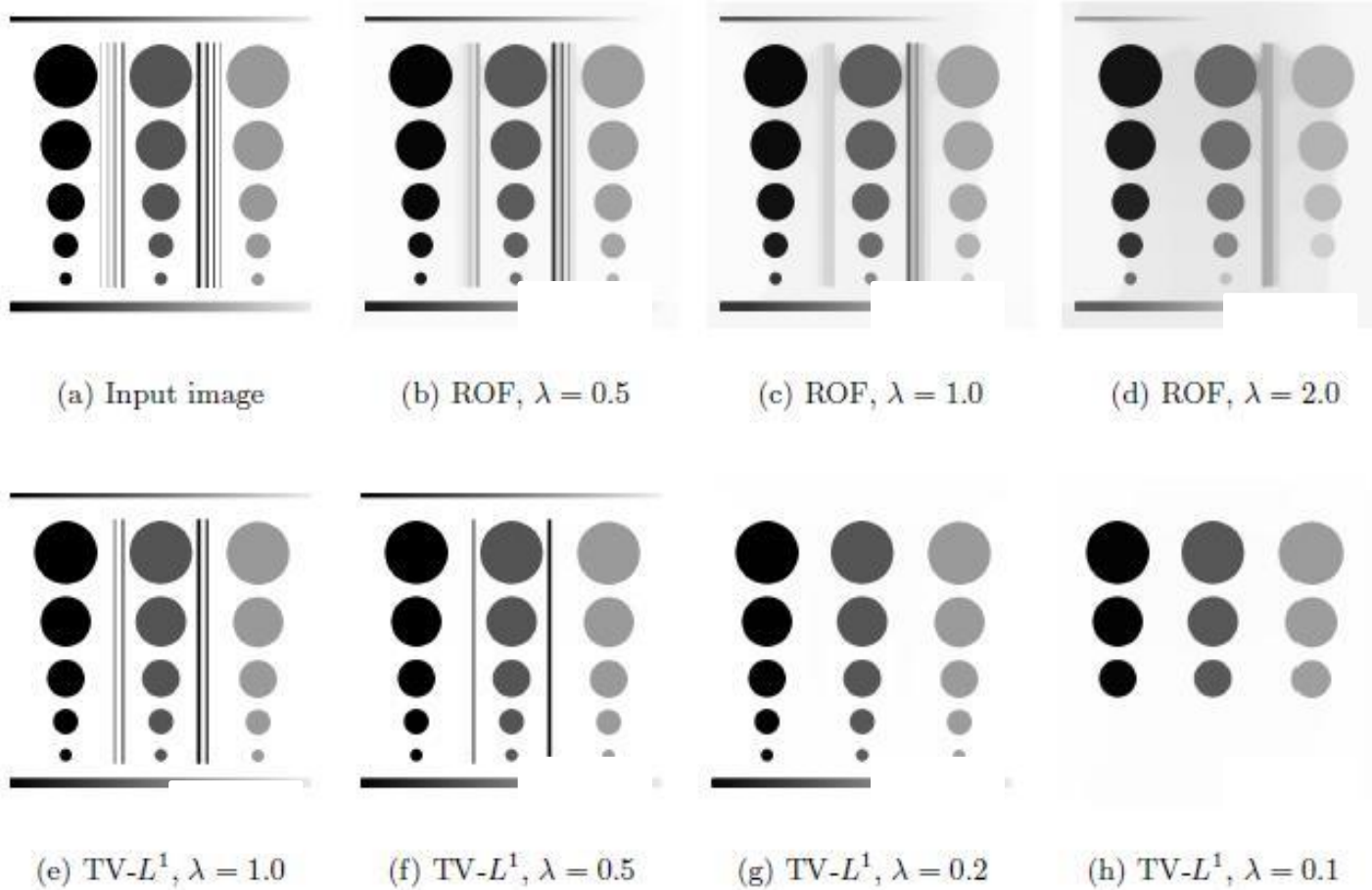
**Definition:** let  $X$  be a convex set. A function  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is said to be **convex** if for all  $x, y \in X$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$f(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1 - \alpha)f(y).$$

With a strict inequality,  $f$  is said to be **strictly convex**.

## TV-L1 model

- ROF Vs TV-L1



\* Smoothness term increases ----- >



## Splitting techniques

- The energy function

$$E = \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda \cdot \|\partial S_p\|_1 \right\}$$

$$\partial S_p = (\partial_x S_p, \partial_y S_p)^T$$

- Keep the result similar to the original input
- Minimize  $l_1$  norm of gradients
- Constrain the number of non-zero gradients

# Splitting techniques

- Easy subproblems

↵ Easy problems↵	$\arg \min_u \ Au - f\ _2^2 \quad (a) \quad \leftarrow$	Differentiable↵
	$\arg \min_u \ u\ _1 + \ u - f\ _2^2 \quad (b) \quad \leftarrow$	Solvable by shrinkage formula↵
↵ Hard problems↵	$\arg \min_u \ Au\ _1 + \ u - f\ _2^2 \quad (c) \quad \leftarrow$	↵ L1 and L2 terms are coupled↵
	$\arg \min_u \ u\ _1 + \ Au - f\ _2^2 \quad (d) \quad \leftarrow$	

## Splitting techniques

- Optimization of the energy function

$$\min_S \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda \cdot \|\partial S_p\|_1 \right\}$$



$$\min_{S, h, v} \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda (|h_p| + |v_p|) + \beta \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) \right\}$$

- Special alternating optimization strategy
- Auxiliary variables  $h_p$  and  $v_p$  are substituting  $\partial S_p$
- Two equations are equivalent when  $\beta$  is large enough

## Splitting techniques

- Alternating optimization strategy

$$\min_{S, h, v} \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda(|h_p| + |v_p|) + \beta((\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2) \right\}$$

- Two subproblems

$$\min_S \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \beta((\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2) \right\}$$

$$\min_{h, v} \sum_p \left\{ ((\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2) + \frac{\lambda}{\beta}(|h_p| + |v_p|) \right\}$$

## Splitting techniques

- Fixing  $h$  and  $v$ , optimizing  $S$

$$\min_S \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \beta \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow S = F^{-1} \left( \frac{F(I) + \beta (F(\partial_x)^* \circ F(h) + F(\partial_y)^* \circ F(v))}{F(1) + \beta (F(\partial_x)^* \circ F(\partial_x) + F(\partial_y)^* \circ F(\partial_y))} \right)$$

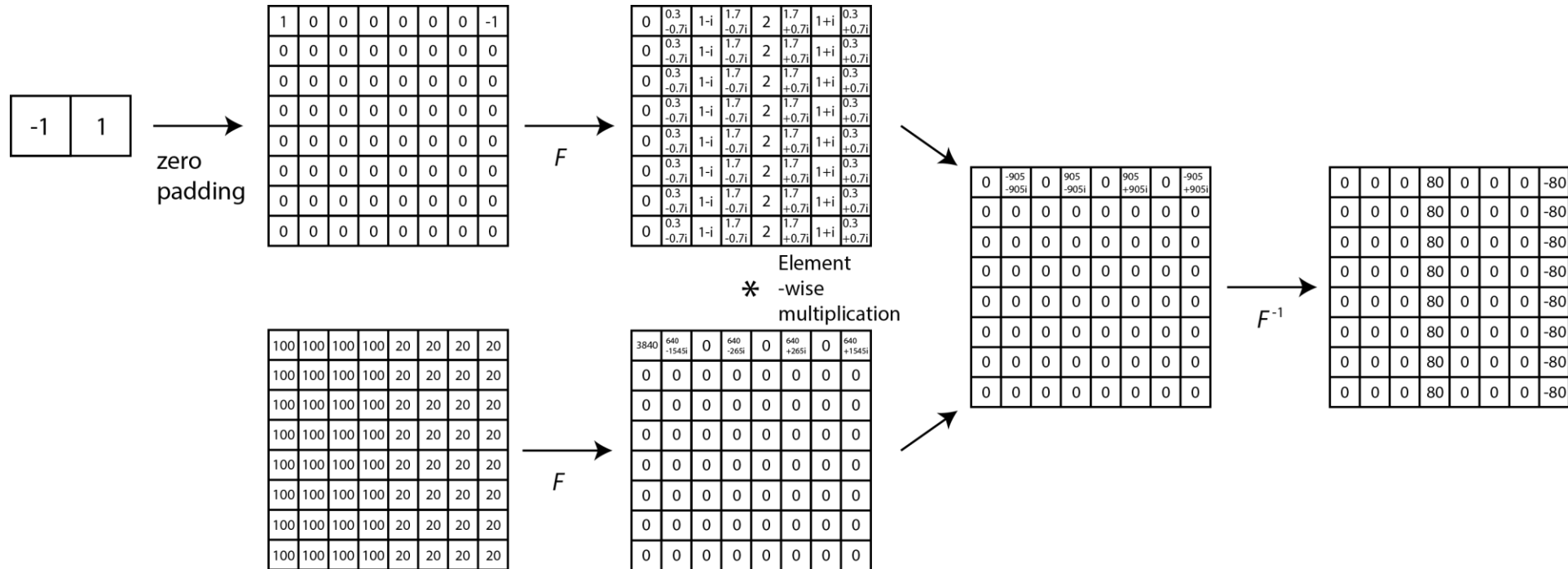
$\mathcal{F}(\ )$ : Fourier transform

$\mathcal{F}(\ )^*$ : Complex conjugate

- The function is quadratic
- Using Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) for speed up
- “ $\circ$ ” denotes component-wise multiplication
- and the division is component-wise as well.

# Splitting techniques

- Derivatives in Fourier domain



## Splitting techniques

- Fixing  $S$ , optimizing  $h$  and  $v$

$$\min_{h,v} \sum_p \left\{ \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) + \frac{\lambda}{\beta} (|h_p| + |v_p|) \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow (h_p, v_p) = \max\left(\|\partial S_p\|_1 - \frac{1}{\beta}, 0\right) \cdot \frac{\partial S_p}{\|\partial S_p\|_1},$$

$$\text{where } \partial S_p = (\partial_x S_p, \partial_y S_p)$$

- Closed form solution
- by using soft thresholding algorithm

# Splitting techniques

- Soft threshoding algorithm

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \longrightarrow \min_{x_i} \left( (x_i - y_i)^2 + \lambda |x_i| \right) \text{ for all } i$$

$$1) x_i > 0 \Rightarrow \min_{x_i} (x_i - y_i)^2 + \lambda x_i,$$

$$2) x_i < 0 \Rightarrow \min_{x_i} (x_i - y_i)^2 - \lambda x_i,$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} ((x_i - y_i)^2 + \lambda x_i) = 0$$

$$2x_i - 2y_i + \lambda = 0$$

$$\therefore x_i = y_i - \frac{\lambda}{2} > 0.$$



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} ((x_i - y_i)^2 - \lambda x_i) = 0$$

$$2x_i - 2y_i - \lambda = 0$$

$$\therefore x_i = y_i + \frac{\lambda}{2} < 0.$$



3) otherwise

$$x_i = 0.$$



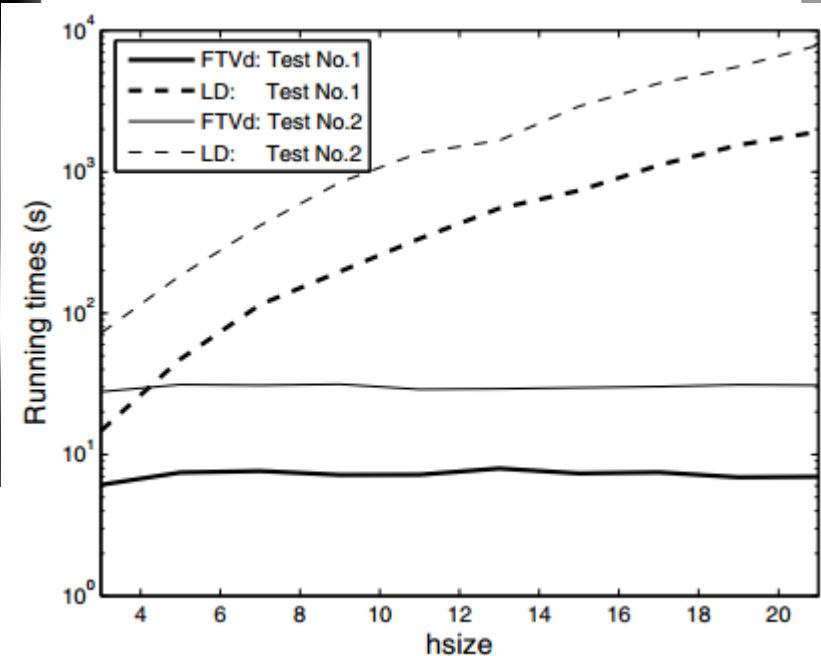
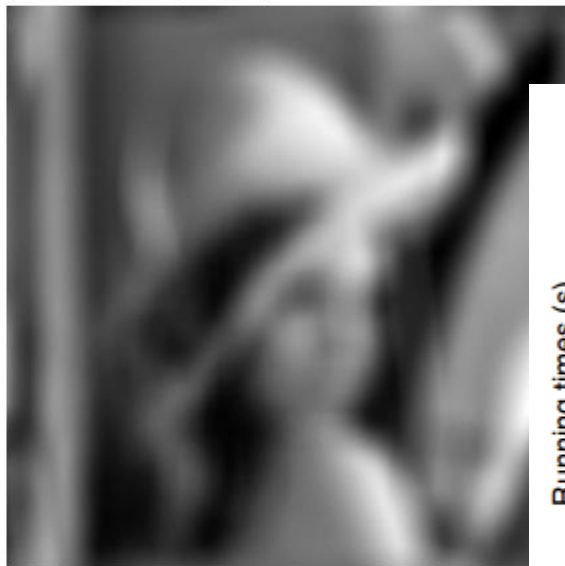
$$x_i = \max\left(\|y_i\| - \frac{\lambda}{2}, 0\right) \frac{y_i}{\|y_i\|}, \text{ or } x_i = 0 \text{ if } \|y_i\| \leq \frac{\lambda}{2}.$$



## Splitting techniques (2008)

### Processing time compared with LD

Blurry&Noisy. SNR: 5.19dB



FTVd:  $\beta = 2^7$ , SNR: 13.11dB,  $t = 14.10s$



[FTVd] Yilun Wang et al., "A New Alternating Minimization Algorithm for Total Variation Image Reconstruction," *SIAM Journal on Imaging Sciences*, 2008

[LD] Vogel and Oman, "Iterative methods for total variation denoising," *SIAM J. Sci.Computing*, 17, 1996

- [1] Y. Wang, J. Yang, W. Yin, and Y. Zhang. A new alternating minimization algorithm for total variation image reconstruction. SIAM Journal on Imaging Sciences, 1(3):248–272, 2008
- [2] Stanley Osher, et al, An iterative regularization method for total variation-based image restoration, SIAM, 2005
- [3] T. Goldstein and S.Osher, “The split Bregman method for L1 regularized problems,” SIAM Journal on Imaging Science, 2009
- [4] M. Afonso, J. Bioucas-Dias, and M. Figueiredo. Fast image recovery using variable splitting and constrained optimization. Image Processing, IEEE Transactions on, 19(9):2345–2356, 2010.

Applied [1] (Variable-splitting combined with a penalty function) to [2] (Bregman iterative regularization method) to get [3](split Bregman method), which is shown equivalent to ADMM for denoising [4].

- alternating direction method of multipliers
- In image processing tasks, image inpainting and deblurring, motion segmentation and reconstruction in addition to denoising.
- In signal processing/reconstruction, ADMM has been applied to sparse and low-rank recovery, where nuclear norm minimization is involved, and to the  $l_1$ -regularized problems in compressed sensing.
- In machine learning, ADMM has been successfully applied to structured-sparsity estimation problems as well as many others.

$$\underset{f}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{\mu}{2} \|Hf - g\|^2 + \|Df\|_1$$

ADMM form

$$\underset{f, z}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{\mu}{2} \|Hf - g\|^2 + \|z\|_1, \quad s.t. \quad z = Df$$

Augmented Lagrangian

$$L_\rho(f, z, u) = \frac{\mu}{2} \|Hf - g\|^2 + \|z\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|z - Df + u\|^2,$$

- ADMM update rule
  1. f-update

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial L}{\partial f} &= \mu \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H}f - \mathbf{g}) - \rho \mathbf{D}^T (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{D}f + \mathbf{u}) = 0 \\ (\mu \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{H} + \rho \mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{D})f &= \mu \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{g} + \rho \mathbf{D}^T (\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{u})\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{f} = F^{-1} \left( \frac{F[(\mu \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{g}) + \rho \mathbf{D}^T (\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{u})]}{\mu |F[\mathbf{H}]|^2 + \rho (|F(\mathbf{D}_x)|^2 + |F(\mathbf{D}_y)|^2)} \right)$$

- ADMM update rule

1. f-update

2. z-update

Note that  $\mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}_x \\ \mathbf{z}_y \end{bmatrix}$ .

Let  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{Df} - \mathbf{u}$ ,

$$\mathbf{z}_x = \max\left(|\mathbf{v}_x| - \frac{1}{\rho}, 0\right) \cdot \text{sign}(\mathbf{v}_x)$$

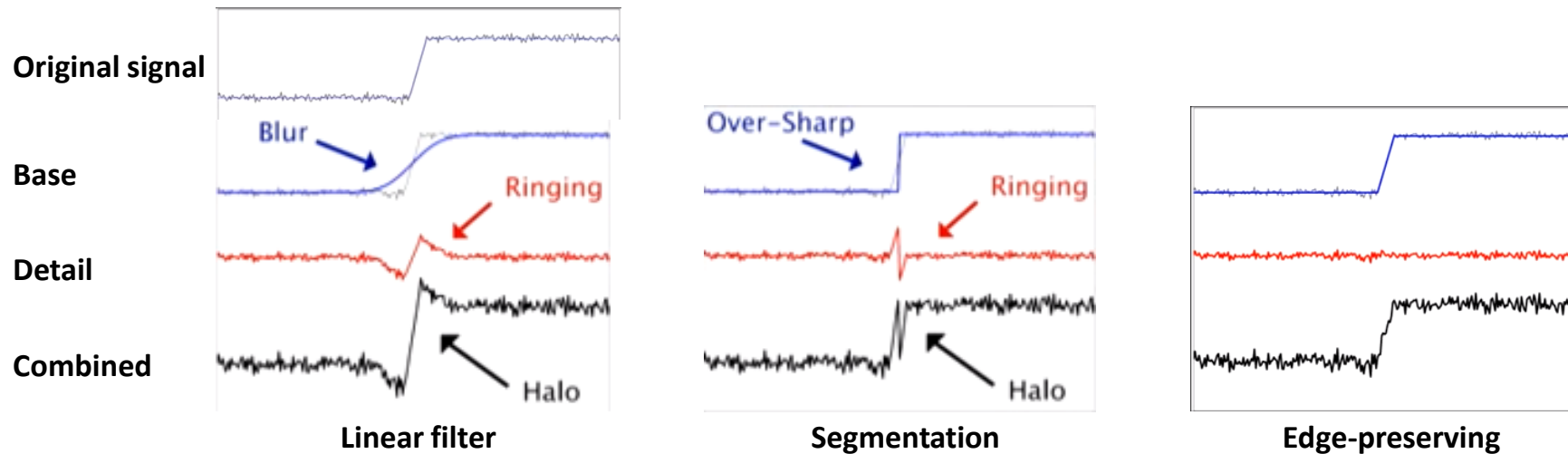
$$\mathbf{z}_y = \max\left(|\mathbf{v}_y| - \frac{1}{\rho}, 0\right) \cdot \text{sign}(\mathbf{v}_y)$$

3. u-update

$$\mathbf{u}^{k+1} = \mathbf{u}^k + \mathbf{z}^{k+1} - \mathbf{v}^{k+1}.$$

## Weighted Least Squares (WLS) and L0 Smoothing

- Edge-preserving multi-scale image decompositions
  - Decompose an image into a piecewise smooth **base layer** and a **detail layer**
  - Advocate an alternative edge-preserving operator
    - Based on the weighted least squares framework
    - Smooth out small gradients from the image while keeping strong gradients





- Objective Function

$$\sum_p \left( (u_p - g_p)^2 + \lambda \left( a_{x,p}(g) \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_p^2 + a_{y,p}(g) \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_p^2 \right) \right)$$

- $g$  : input image,  $u$  : new image

- $a_x, a_y$  determines whether a gradient is small or strong (smoothness weights)

- $a_{x,p}(g) = \left( \left| \frac{\partial l}{\partial x}(p) \right|^\alpha + \varepsilon \right)^{-1}$   $a_{y,p}(g) = \left( \left| \frac{\partial l}{\partial y}(p) \right|^\alpha + \varepsilon \right)^{-1}$

- $l$  is the log-luminance channel of  $g$

- $\lambda$  determines the amount small gradients to be removed

- Optimizing the Objective Function
  - Using matrix notation,

$$(u - g)^T (u - g) + \lambda (u^T D_x^T A_x D_x u + u^T D_y^T A_y D_y u)$$

- $A_x, A_y$  : diagonal matrices containing the smoothness weights  $a_x(g), a_y(g)$
- $D_x, D_y$  : discrete differentiation operators

- Can be minimized by solving

$$(I + \lambda L_g) u = g$$

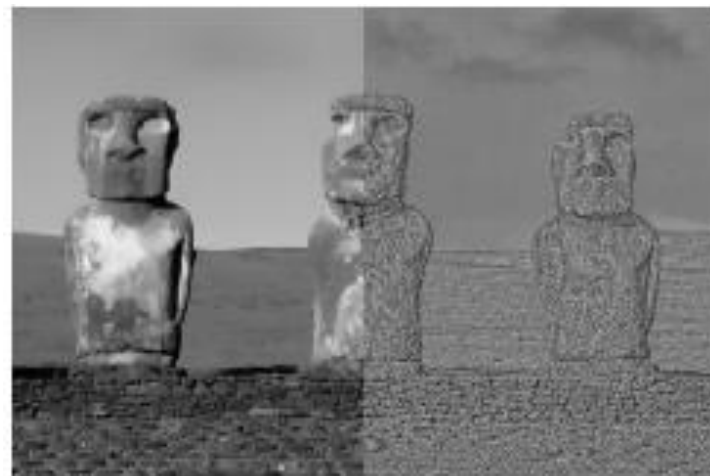
- $L_g = D_x^T A_x D_x + D_y^T A_y D_y$

# Weighted Least Squares (WLS)

Input Image



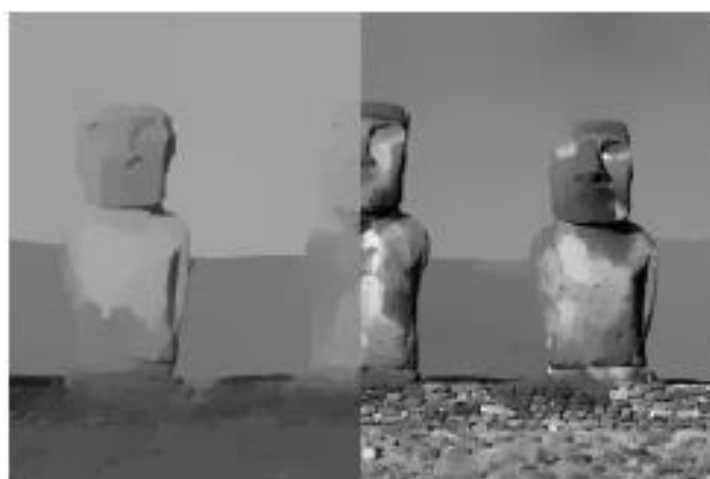
$\lambda = 0.2$



$\lambda = 0.8$



$\lambda = 3.2$



structure

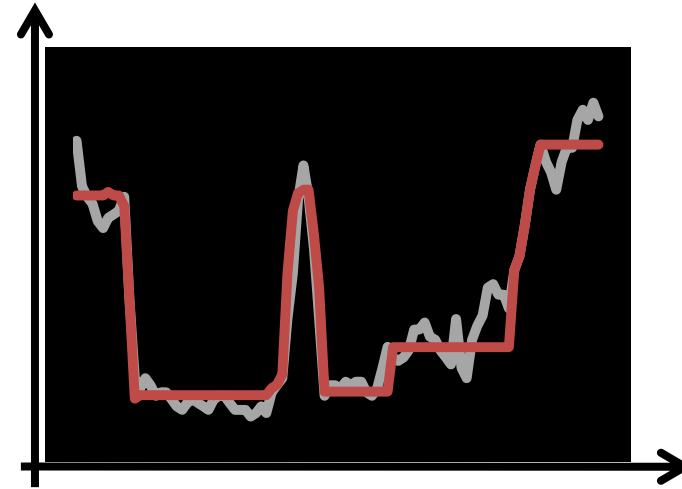
texture

- Pros
  - (Almost) the first gradient preserving global images smoothing algorithm introduced in the image/graphics field
    - High quality multiscale image decomposition
  - Enables various applications
- Cons
  - Unable to handle high contrast textures
  - Global optimization is not fast
- TV Vs WLS
  - WLS gives more control to users
  - WLS better keeps strong gradients, enabling variety of graphics applications
  - TV smooths textures better, compared to WLS

- The energy function

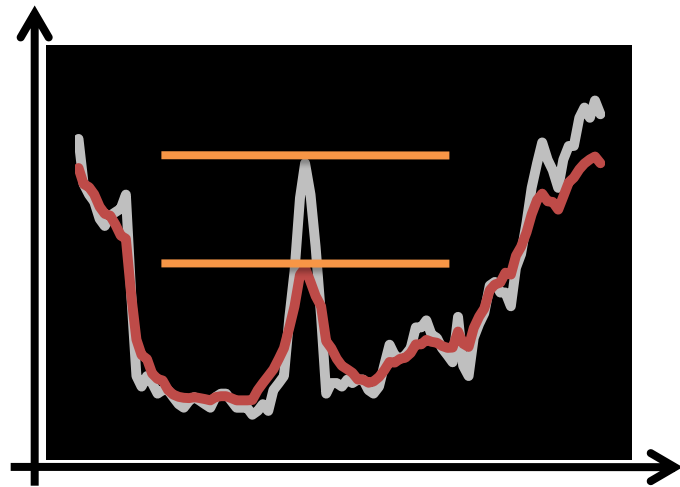
$$E = \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda \cdot C(S) \right\}$$

$$C(S) = \# \left\{ p \mid \left| \partial_x S_p \right| + \left| \partial_y S_p \right| \neq 0 \right\}$$

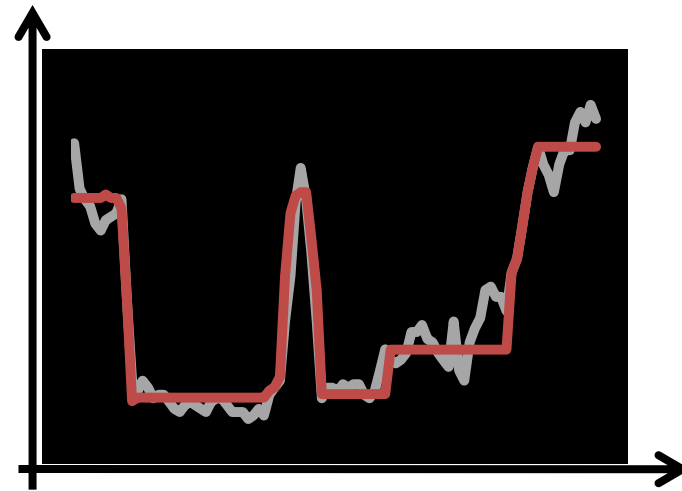


- Keep the result similar to the original input
- Minimize  $l_0$  norm of gradients
- Constrain the number of non-zero gradients

- $L_1$  gradient vs.  $L_0$  gradient

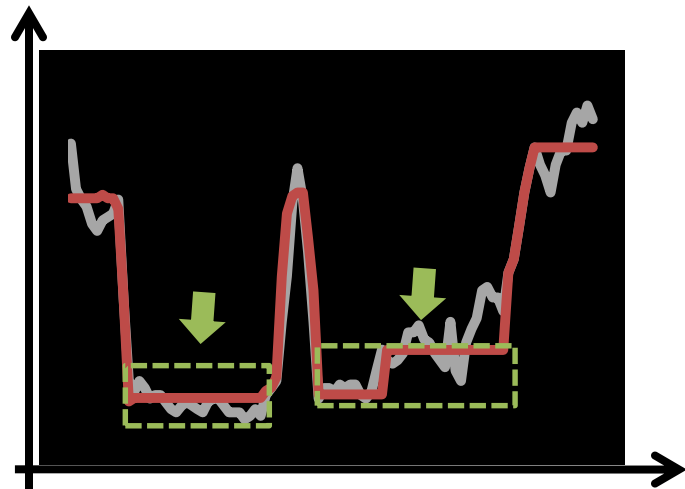


$L_1$  gradient

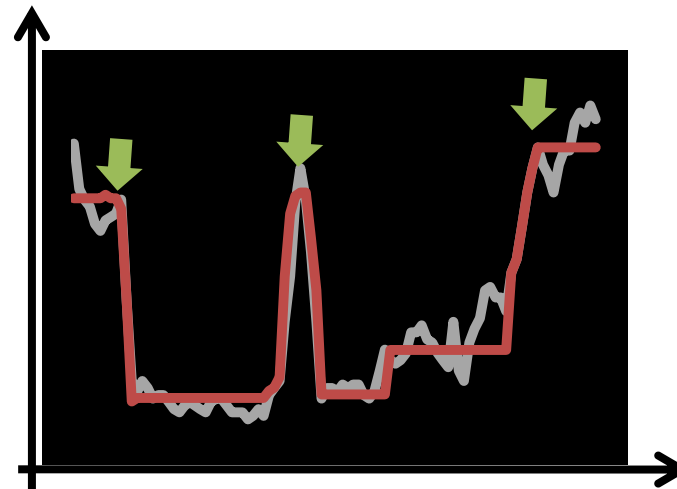


$L_0$  gradient

- $L_1$  gradient vs.  $L_0$  gradient



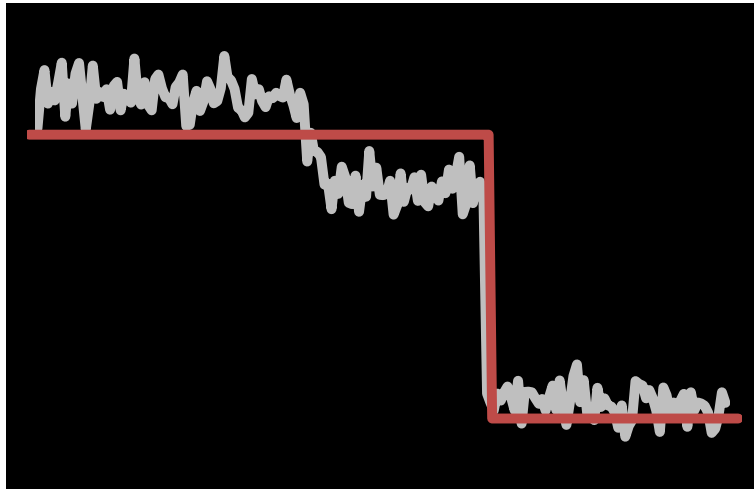
(a)



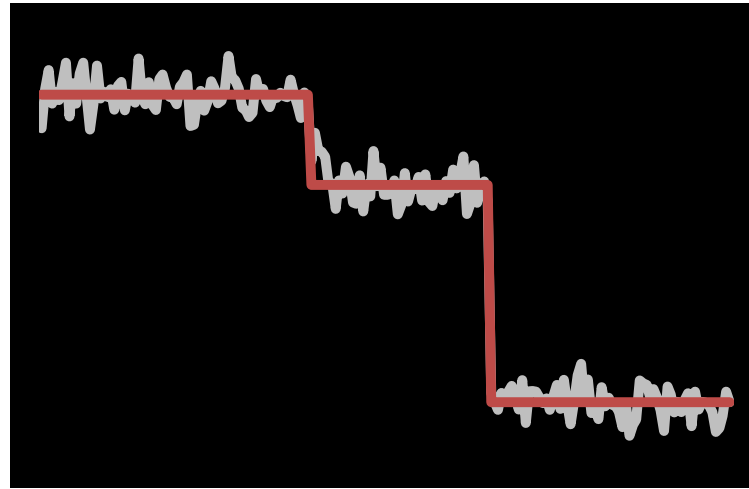
(b)

- (a) Flattening insignificant details by removing small non-zero gradients
- (b) Enhancing prominent edges due to large and small gradients have the same penalty

- Framework in 1D



$$\min_s \sum_p (s_p - i_p)^2, \quad s.t. \quad c(s) = 1$$



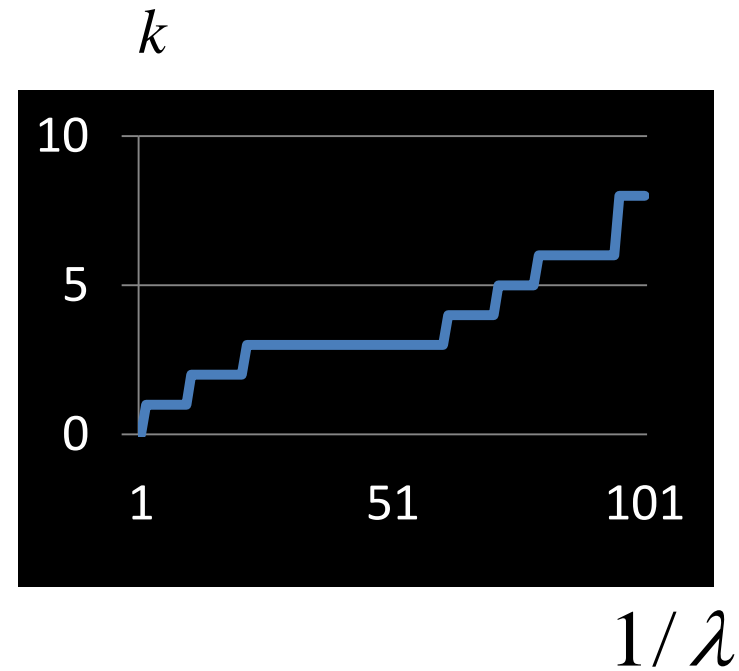
$$\min_s \sum_p (s_p - i_p)^2, \quad s.t. \quad c(s) = 2$$



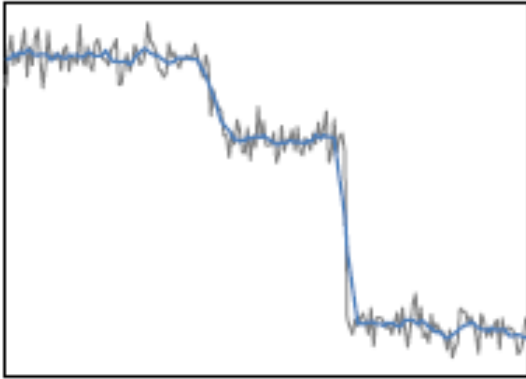
- In practice,

$$\min_s \sum_p (s_p - i_p)^2, \quad s.t. \quad c(s) = \mathbf{k}$$

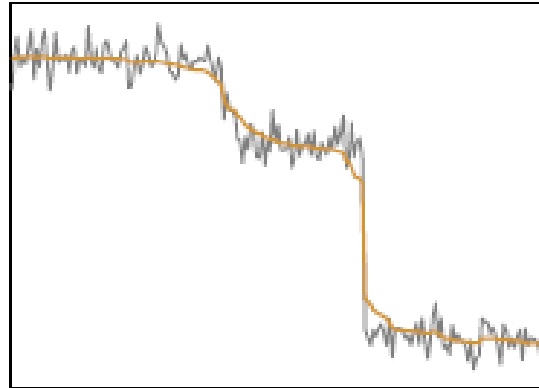
➔ 
$$\min_s \sum_p (s_p - i_p)^2 + \lambda \cdot c(s)$$



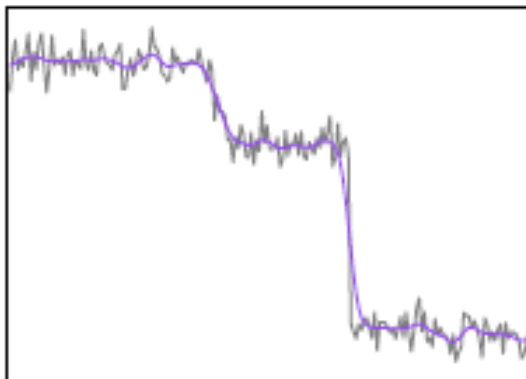
- Comparisons [Xu]



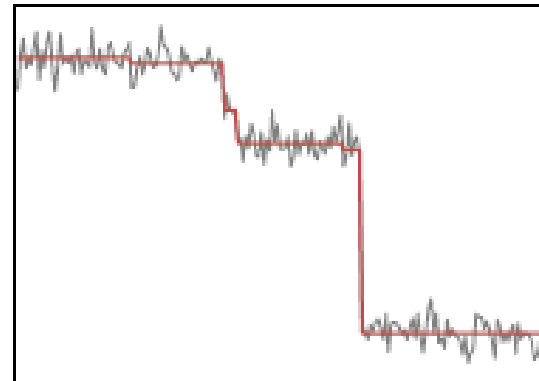
BLF 1998



WLS 2008



TV 1992




$L_0$  smoothing 2011

- Optimization of the energy function

$$\min_S \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda \cdot C(S) \right\},$$

$$\text{where } C(S) = \#\{p \mid |\partial_x S_p| + |\partial_y S_p| \neq 0\}$$


$$\min_{S, h, v} \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda \cdot C(h, v) + \beta \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) \right\},$$
$$\text{where } C(h, v) = \#\{p \mid |h_p| + |v_p| \neq 0\}$$

- Special alternating optimization strategy
- Auxiliary variables  $h_p$  and  $v_p$  are substituting  $\partial_x S_p$  and  $\partial_y S_p$
- Two equations are equivalent when  $\beta$  is large enough

- Alternating optimization strategy (splitting technique)

$$\min_{S, h, v} \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \lambda \cdot C(h, v) + \beta \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) \right\}$$

– Two subproblems

$$\min_S \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \beta \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) \right\}$$

$$\min_{h, v} \sum_p \left\{ \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) + \frac{\lambda}{\beta} \cdot C(h, v) \right\}$$

- Fixing  $h$  and  $v$ , optimizing  $S$

$$\min_S \sum_p \left\{ (S_p - I_p)^2 + \beta \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) \right\}$$

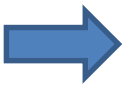
➡ 
$$S = F^{-1} \left( \frac{F(I) + \beta (F(\partial_x)^* \circ F(h) + F(\partial_y)^* \circ F(v))}{F(1) + \beta (F(\partial_x)^* \circ F(\partial_x) + F(\partial_y)^* \circ F(\partial_y))} \right)$$

$\mathcal{F}(\cdot)$ : Fourier transform  
 $\mathcal{F}(\cdot)^*$ : Complex conjugate

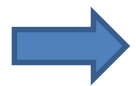
- The function is quadratic
- Using Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) for speed up
- Same as total variation minimization

- Fixing  $S$ , optimizing  $h$  and  $v$

$$\min_{h,v} \sum_p \left\{ \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) + \frac{\lambda}{\beta} \cdot C(h, v) \right\}$$


$$\min_{h,v} \sum_p \left\{ \left( (\partial_x S_p - h_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p - v_p)^2 \right) + \frac{\lambda}{\beta} \cdot H(|h_p|, |v_p|) \right\}$$

$$\text{where } H(|h_p|, |v_p|) = \begin{cases} 1 & |h_p|, |v_p| \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



$$(h_p, v_p) = \begin{cases} (0, 0) & (\partial_x S_p)^2 + (\partial_y S_p)^2 \leq \lambda / \beta \\ (\partial_x S_p, \partial_y S_p) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Input Image



TV



Weighted Least Square



L0 Smoothing



Input Image



TV



Weighted Least Square



L0 Smoothing



# Experimental Results

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Input Image



TV

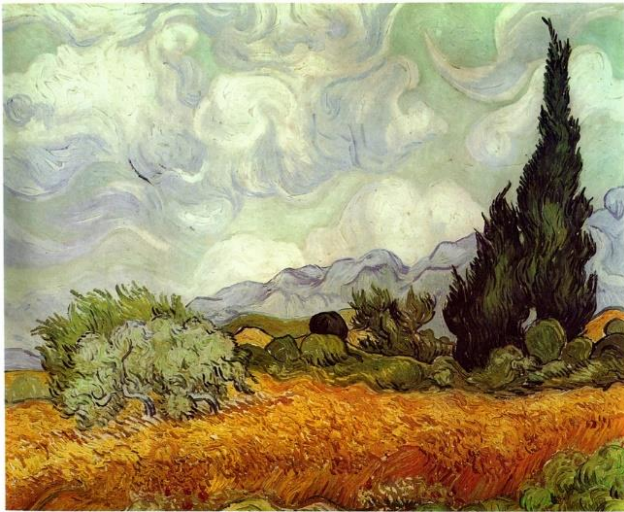


Weighted Least Square



L0 Smoothing

- Image restoration
  - Edge-aware filtering
  - Scale-aware filtering
  - Content-based,,,,
- Requires better analysis of textures



Input Image



Relative Total Variation

- The TV model (i.e., ROF model) can be reused as a building block in total variation solutions for quite a variety of vision problems, such as:
  - Optical flow calculation
  - Deblurring
  - Multi-view stereo recognition
  - Segmentation/multi-class labeling
  - Globally consistent depth estimation from 4D light fields (CVPR, 2012)

- Computing optical flow using TV formulation

$$E_{\text{TVL1}} = \lambda \cdot \int \int |I_0(\mathbf{x}) - I_1(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}))| d\mathbf{x} + \int \int |\nabla u_1(\mathbf{x})| + |\nabla u_2(\mathbf{x})| d\mathbf{x}$$

Approximation to strictly convex functional

$$E_{\text{TVL1}} = \lambda \int \int |\rho(\mathbf{v})| d\mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2\theta} \int \int (u_1 - v_1)^2 + (u_2 - v_2)^2 d\mathbf{x} \\ + \int \int |\nabla u_1| + |\nabla u_2| d\mathbf{x}$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{v}) = I_0(\mathbf{x}) - I_1(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{v}_0) - \langle \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_0, \nabla I_1(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{v}_0) \rangle$$

$\swarrow$ 

$$\min_{u_d} \left[ \frac{1}{2\theta} \int \int (u_d - v_d)^2 d\mathbf{x} + \int \int |\nabla u_d| d\mathbf{x} \right]$$

$\searrow$ 

$$\min_{\mathbf{v}} \left[ \lambda \cdot \int \int |\rho(\mathbf{v})| d\mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2\theta} \int \int (u_1 - v_1)^2 + (u_2 - v_2)^2 d\mathbf{x} \right]$$

- Total variation minimization (splitting tech.)
  - Wang et al., A New Alternating Minimization Algorithm for Total Variation Image Reconstruction, SIAM Journal on Imaging Sciences, Volume 1, Issue 3, 248-272, July 2008.
- Weighted least squares
  - Farbman et al., Edge-preserving decompositions for multi-scale tone and detail manipulation, ACM Trans. Graphics, Volume 27, Issue 3, Article No. 67, August 2008.
- $L_0$  gradient minimization
  - Xu et al., Image smoothing via  $L_0$  gradient minimization, ACM Trans. Graphics, Volume 30, Issue 6, Article No. 174, December 2011.
- Relative total variation
  - Xu et al., Structure extraction from texture via relative total variation , ACM Trans. Graphics, Volume 31 Issue 6, Article No. 139, November 2012.
- Rolling guidance filter (← not variational method)
  - Zhang et al., ECCV 2014